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FREE PRESS

THE NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

No 22

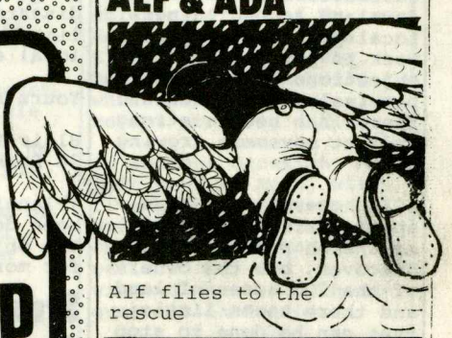
bumper news issue

INSIDE STORIES

WOULD YOU DRESS UP LIKE THIS ?

TO EARN A DECENT WAGE SOME WOMEN HAVE TO.

ALF & ADA



Alf flies to the rescue

NHS carve-up

How the new NHS has been fixed by the Tories. Pages 8 & 9.

NEWS

Get your rights in the three-day week.Page 5

Inside the Royal bog shock Page6

Salford social worker jailed on drugs charges tells all. Page 10

Football: Why United must go down. Page 11.

The dirty deals of Oldham millionaire. Page 3.

DAISY'S DIARY

Frank and fearless Daisy digs it up.P7

WHAT'S NEW

What's on, books, films and lots more goodies.

AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

M/cr Women's Liberation

Sly ICI on the rampage

Dear Free Press,

I have found your address in Uncareers, and was wondering if your readers would be interested in the situation developing in Wormhill, near Buxton. This village's problems are somewhat removed from housing developments in Salford etc., but if the type of news you are interested in is the same as the Glasgow News, then you may wish to publish something on it.

LCL recently announced their intention to create an extension of 200 acres to their open cast quarries at Wormhill, with the destruction of valuable farmland and buildings. Local people were given a week to put forward objections before planning permission was given and there has been a strong protest movement growing up.

ICI, however, who have spent years developing expansion plans are, we discover, now the owners of the 200 acres of land and there seems little that can be done to stop the expansion except for a strong conservation lobby and well-formulated alternative proposals. The Buxton area is now surrounded on three sides by huge quarries and local feeling is extremely high about the rather sly way ICI have quietly prepared for this expansion and that the people have had such a short time to gather their thoughts for a counter attack. Violent action is a possibility.

A local action committee has been formed and if we obtain a six month freeze on planning permission on the strength of local objection, the next few months should uncover a lot of information about mining in general and ICI in particular, and the disasterous effect the lime quarries have on the local environment.

Yours sincerely,

Blair Forster,
38 Peak Forest, Buxton.

(Planning permission has been deferred because of the objections. Watch out for more developments-eds)

FROM OUR READERS

Strangeways: Carr cops out

Dear Free Press,

I enclose for your information a copy of Hansard in which Mr Alf Morris asked a question on Strangeways Prison. Further to your issue No 21 on this subject could I inform your correspondent Mr Ted Ward that I am one member of the Manchester Council who did not receive a copy of the (PROP) report.

yours sincerely,
Frank Price,
c/o Wythenshawe Labour Club,
Manchester 22.

Mr. Alfred Morris: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his Department has found serious inadequacies in the physical conditions at Strangeways Prison, Manchester, and also overcrowding? What is the present extent of the overcrowding and what action is the right hon. Gentleman taking?

Mr. Carr: There is still serious overcrowding. I think—speaking from memory—that it is still, unfortunately, a fact that about one-third of our prisoners are sleeping three to a cell, very often in cells originally designed by our Victorian grandfathers to hold one. But with the decline in the prison population and the increase in prison staff, that proportion is declining, too, and at least the proporton living three to a cell is considerably smaller than it was three years ago.

New alternative paper

Dear Free Press,

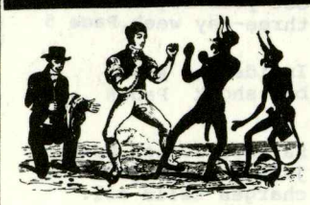
We're hoping to set up a little alternative mag here, sometime in the new year, not relating particularly, as you do, to local issues, but to more general things (consciousness, revolution etc.)

The aim is to cover as wide a range of topics as possible, and to get people contributing from all over the country - and beyond, who knows? Could you put a note in your next issue to the effect that we'd like anyone who's interested in contributing to write to us at the above address

Love,

Dick Foreman & Bill Symondson, 47 Windsor Street, Hanley, Stoke.

LETTERS TO FREE PRESS SHOULD BE SENT TO 45 ASPINALL STREET MANCHESTER 14.



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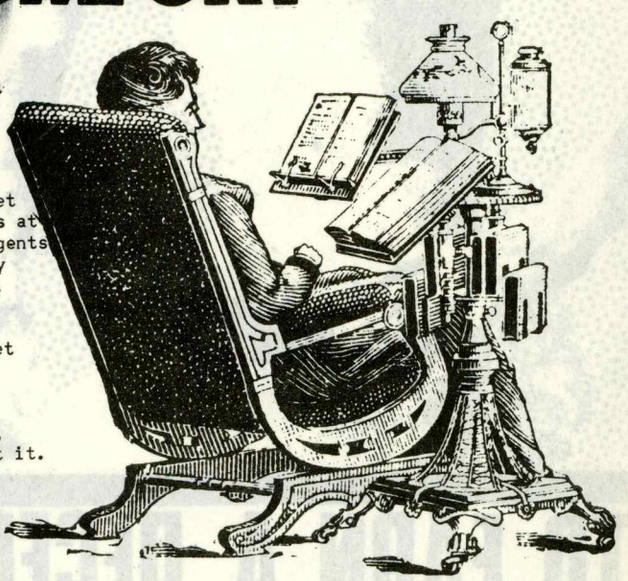
Yes folks, take advantage of this offer RIGHT NOW! Forget the queues at the newsagents the dreary trips and disappointing journeys. Get FREE PRESS direct from the makers and save LOTS OF MONEY!!! SUBSCRIBE NOW for only 95p and get a whole year's edition of FREEP sent to you under plain cover IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME. Straighten those round shoulders, DO IT NOW and you'll never regret it.



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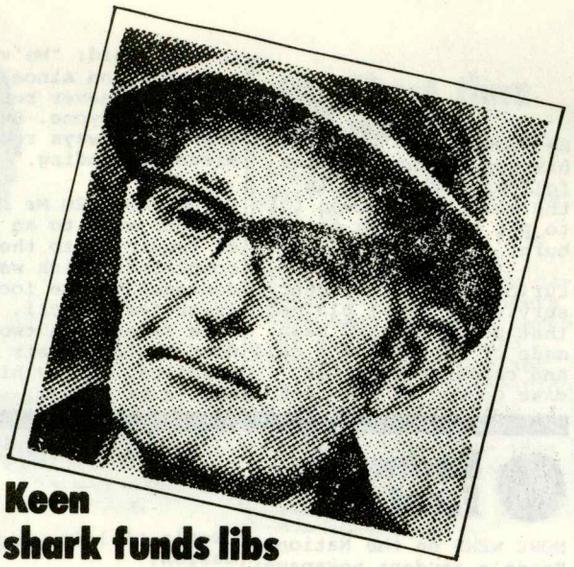
Manchester social services department has recently been inundated with offers from the council of empty buildings. One of them was the ex-Ugli Ray Terret disco in Hulme, currently in the hands of an estate agent. The city estates department, it seems, offered the building after a "big political party" had made inquiries about it. Now Labour has already got the Hulme Labour Club and the Liberals havn't any money to go lashing out on party offices like that. Or have they? Michael Steed's strong showing in the Exchange by-election may have convinced the Liberals that



Keen shark funds libs

THE IMPOVERISHED Liberal Party were delighted to hear that Oldham property millionaire Tom Keen had offered them £100,000 for the next general election campaign. He had, after all, already shown his good faith by meeting some of the Liberals' costs in both the Govan and the Hove by-elections. Mr Keen, who runs his industrial property empire from an office in Hollingwood, Oldham, is also the founder member of the More Prosperous Britain Society. The aim of the society is to stop strikes. Mr Keen believes all strikes are caused by [illegible]

would put up 50 candidates in marginal Labour seats. Taverne turned down the offer so Mr Keen decided to throw his lot in with the Liberals.

It now appears, however, that Mr Keen is unable to come across with the cash and instead he has struck a deal in kind - allowing the Liberals to use some of his many industrial premises up and down the country.

The Liberal party is fully aware of Mr Keen's eccentric views on politics but they are reportedly [illegible]

Reid, the Front's racist candidate in Blackburn.

Some of Mr Keen's other recent activities are sure to have gained approval by the Front. Last year he and two heavies went down to a housing estate he owns near Reading and proceeded to smash up a house with iron bars. The family living in the house had to get out. Mr Keen's reason for this unusual behaviour was an attempt to make Mr Keen even more prosperous. He wanted to sell the estate - which he bought in 1947 for £3,000 - for a new development. His asking price was £1m. That sort of profit margin is not so remarkable for a man of Mr Keen's ingenuity. The £100,000 offer to the Liberals was allegedly what he made on a recent property deal.

On another occasion last year Mr Keen, with five of his cronies, ended up in court charged with damaging walls, doors and windows at the TUC headquarters in London.

Mo[illegible]

Doctor in the doghouse

READERS of Free Press (No 13) will be aware of the dangers that patients face when their doctor uses an emergency night deputising service. The services are private, profit-making concerns and can be found in most cities. They are often staffed by junior hospital doctors who work on their nights off or even after they have finished their long day shift. In Manchester many doctors use the Manchester Emergency Medical Service which is run by Dr Desmond Conroy.

Not all doctors approve of such services because of the increasing number of complaints made against them. Dr Conroy's service is no exception. The Stockport Medical Executive Council is currently investigating a complaint made by Mrs Susan Seymour of Burton Walk, Heaton Norris. A hot water bottle stuck to the stomach of her 18 month old son one night last month, badly burning him. Mrs Seymour's husband Tony phoned his own doctor but the call was intercepted [illegible] put

he would have to take his son to their GP the following morning. In the meantime, he was told to put a dressing on the burn.

Curiously, the emergency service at first claimed that no record had been made of Mr Seymour's call And commenting on the case Conroy is reported to have said: "We've been in operation since '58 and we've never refused to visit anyone. But there is always room for misunderstanding."

On December 20 Mr and Mrs Seymour went to an informal inquiry into their complaints which was convened by the local executive council. They were faced with two doctors from their own practice, Conroy himself, and a Dr Holmes. Holmes , a GP, had been working at the emergency service on the day that Richard had his accident and it was he who Mr Seymour had appealed to for help.

'I'm afraid we didn't get any satisfaction," Mrs Seymour told Free Press afterwards. "They denied that my husband asked for a doctor to come out and visit. Conroy did most of the talking and it was suggested that there must have been a misunderstanding over the phone.

"Dr Holmes said that the receptionist, who took the call in the first place, had told him that we only wanted advice but that wasn't true at all. They all seemed to be against us and although we were told we could take the matter further we decided that it wouldn't do any good."

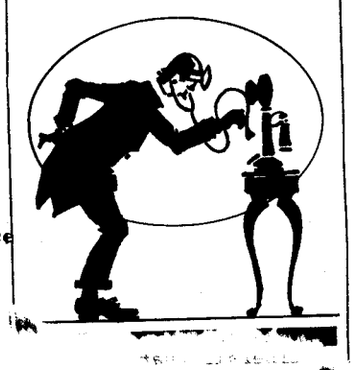
Backward Front

MORE NEWS on the National Front's student newspaper Spark. One of the contributors to the paper is David Hidson, who wrote a lengthy article entitled 'Race and Integration - Scientists speak out.' The article is about the genetic scientists Jensen and Shockley, who claim that black people's intelligence is inherently lower than that of whites.

Hidson concludes his article: "... there has never been any doubt about the interrelationship of race, heredity and [illegible]nd the difference in [illegible]al capacity [illegible] people of left-wing persuasion."

You may be interested to know that Hidson is an electrical engineer at Carleton University in Ottawa. And that of Carleton's full-time teaching staff (among whom Hidson does not figure) some 30 out of 500 are coloured. Of that 30, two are heads of department. And that of the 104 PhDs awarded by Carleton so far (none of which has gone to Hidson) several have been awarded to Asians and at least 3 to black Africans.

No doubt the liberal-Marxist-black conspiracy [illegible] responsible for [illegible] tuous ignorance [illegible] n his [illegible] maybe



ARE YOU GETTING YOURS?

ALMOST everyone affected by the government's 3 day week can claim certain benefits. These benefits are yours by right. You must claim immediately to avoid disqualification.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT
For the two days you are not working each week you can claim flat rate unemployment benefit. To claim, sign on at your local employment exchange on the first day you are off work. The flat rate for a single person is about £1.45 a day. You'll get more if you have dependents.

The government will not pay benefit for the first 3 days of unemployment. It will start on the fourth day, when you will be paid by Giro.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT
If you cannot get dole, you can claim off the SS. instead. As well as the basic allowance for your living expenses, £7.15 for a single person, your rent and rates should be paid or an allowance given for your mortgage interest. HP payments already started should be paid. SS can also pay lump sums for "exceptional needs" - fuel, rent arrears, bedding, clothing etc. These are discretionary but insist if the local manager refuses. Take a friend along or some of your workmates. If they still refuse, appeal. To claim, first sign on the dole, then go to the local SS office.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
If you earn £25 a week and have 3 children, they should get free school meals. Apply at the local education offices.

RENT & RATES REBATES
Rent: eg If your weekly income is now £22 under the 3 day week, you are married with 2 children and the rent is £3 then you will get all your rent paid. If you're single, on £22 with a £3 rent you'll get 60p. Apply to the council rebate office. Rebates are based on the last 5 weeks wages so you won't get the money straight away. Rates: Rebates here are assessed over a six month period but you will qualify if you're on 3 day working for a few weeks.

ANOTHER CURSORY NURSERY RHYME FOR MRS THATCHER

It's really rather hard to match
The tricks that Tory Mrs Thatch
-er has got up to with a view
To keeping education blue.
While every promise, every pledge,
Is forfeited to privilege,
A fabricated IQ Test
Confirms the few, and damns the rest;
The system's only fair and just
To the hardened upper crust.
'Just educate the small elite,
And leave the rest to sweep the street...'
If you ignore the chance there is
To challenge the injustices
That turn the law to ridicule
Where they are first revealed - at school;
The day is due (and will be kept)
When streets are strewn instead of swept.

To be continued, if we can find it.

Short time work

WORKERS IN THE NORTH West are among the worst hit by the latest government crisis move to cut wages by two fifths in the three day week. 250,000 engineers have been put on a three day week. Mr Bernard Panter, area organiser for the main engineering union AUEW said that the union was working flat out to ensure that their members receive a full weeks pay. They have already won an agreement that any Saturday work will be paid at time and a rates. Suggestions have also been made that members laid off might attempt to turn up for work as normal.

The TASS section of the union has issued a special directive to its members advising them to 'resist any steps taken by employers to reach agreements which contradict the normal weekly or monthly staff contract.' They are also advised to resist any efforts to impose special hours to accommodate the government's decision.

A spokesman for USDAW, the shopworkers' union, said that while shop distributors and warehouses appeared to be working full time at the moment, the income of many of its members was going to be reduced.

The union feared that part-time workers in shops may soon be laid off. Workers in food factories should be safe in the short run, but a shortage of supplies could lead to a reduction in work and a sharp drop in income for people on piece work rates.

The measures also affect 70,000 textile workers in the North West. Joe King, general sec of the Union of Textile and Allied Workers, told Free Press: 'We have a claim to the Textile Employers' Association and the Northern division of Courtaulds for premium rates at time and a half for members working Saturdays. Both parties have refused to make this payment.'

Further talks are scheduled at the time of writing, but disatisfaction with this refusal is high among textile workers.

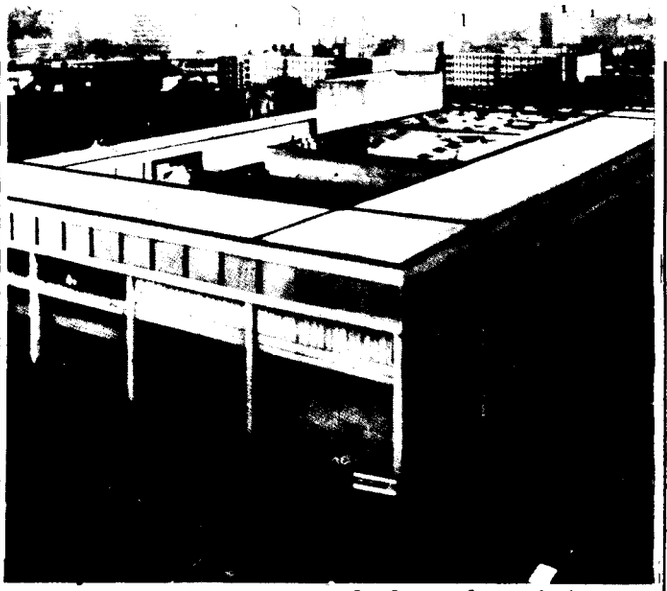
Union leaders are also particularly angry about the government refusal to allow unemployment benefit for Saturday, so that people working for the first 3 days of the week receive only two days benefit. They also feared seriosu problems of shortages of raw materials such as steel if the situation goes on for long, as now appears to be the case.

Last word on the situation should go to economist Nicholas Kaldor who says that the measures were imposed 'despite the fact that the value of the weekly loss in output will be 800 times as large as the additional sum necessary to settle with the miners.'

More dirt on royal Bog

SIX MONTHS after the Royal Northern College of Music opened, it is now becoming apparent that all is not well within "Britain's first purpose-built conservatoire of music for half a century."

The first signs of strain became public with the controversy over the £2,600 bog which was put in for the Duchess of Kent when she officially opened the building in June. But the problems started a long time before that. The building had been on the drawing board for eight years before a brick was laid because no agreement could be reached over costs with the Department of Education and Science.



And even when the go-ahead was given, the department laid down, as usual, strict cost yardsticks. It went up, at a cost of nearly £1.5 million, full of advanced techniques of sound insulation and packed with expensive German grand pianoes. It's superb proportions excite attention from more than the casual eye," said Jack Boyce, chief education officer for Lancashire who sat on the working party which planned the building. And John Bickdike of Bickerdike, Allen Rich & Partners, the architects who designed the college, said: "An attempt is being made, in spite of financial constraints, to give the entire building an ambience of good design in colour and form." Fine words, but Mr Bickerdike seems to have forgotten a small thing or two. Critics of the building, and people who have to work there, are now saying that not enough offices, stores, lifts and, you guessed it, toilets were provided. Alderman Norman Morris, chairman of the Manchester finance committee even went so far as to accuse the architects of including the

Normedia Too Groovy

THE NORTH WEST ARTS Association are still refusing to give a grant to Normedia, the Manchester-based group of young musicians whose original approach to concerts has caused more than a stir among Northern music critics. Normedia at the moment is inadequately financed by various local foundations such as the Goethe Institute and the Moors family trust. The NWAA policy for giving grants is to ask the potential receivers to get additional money out of private foundations as well as from the NWAA. They were therefore a little perturbed by Normedia's refusal to approach the famous Gulbenkian Foundation, the cultural agency run by the fascist Portugese government. Normedia declined to take money from such a source.

Tiny

But there is more to the NWAA's refusal than just that. Normedia, run by Richard Witts, prefer to advertise their concerts with bright, visually powerful and often political posters and handouts, rather than shoving tiny formal announcements in the columns of the press. The NWAA disagree with this, possibly because Gerald Larner, Michael Kennedy and John Robert Blun (music critics of the Guardian, Telegraph and Evening News) all sit on the grant awarding committee.

The vice-chairman of the committee is Simon Townley brother of the boring and unstable Telegraph writer Peregrine Getworsethorne.

ROYAL
NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC

124 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RD
061-273 6283

from
The Principal

JM/CP

23rd October, 1973

RECORDED DELIVERY

R. Witts, Esq.,
Normedia,
71 Stamford Street,
Brooks Bar,
MANCHESTER, 16.

Dear Mr. Witts,

I have had drawn to my attention the fact that last Saturday's issue of The Guardian advertised the Normedia Concert, scheduled to take place in our Concert Hall next Monday, as "Gerald Larner Memorial Concert".

I have little doubt that this action could be regarded in legal terms as libellous. It is certainly, in my opinion, distasteful.

I trust that you have no intention of taking any action in connection with next Monday's concert, which perpetuates in any form any reference to Mr. Larner and I must ask your undertaking that if the concert is to proceed as planned at present, there should be no reference to Mr. Larner in any form, either in the course of the event or in any programmes or publicity material made available to the public in connection with the concert.

This letter will be sent to you by Recorded Delivery and I should appreciate a written reply by return and the inclusion in your reply of an undertaking that the requirements set out in the previous paragraph of this letter will be fully met.

Sincerely,

11 Higher Downs,
Altrincham,
Cheshire

20th October, 1973

Dear Mr Witts,

From today I wish to have no connection, official or professional or personal, with Normedia and the organisers of Normedia.

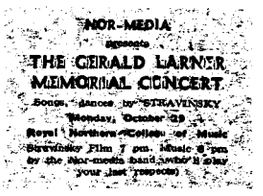
You may not use my name for any purpose whatever, including publicity purposes. I would be grateful if you would also refrain from communicating with me in any way at any time in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Gerald Larner

In June this year, Normedia received a letter from Alexander Shouvaloff the director of the NWAA, stating that 'a very marked imporvement in your presentation, press, public relations and publicity would be necessary before they would approve a grant in future!

Following this thinly disguised threat, Normedia complied and began putting 1½ inch display ads in the Telgraph, Guardian etc But instead of the usual 'Concert in strait-jacket by Halle' they tried filling in the space with eyecatching irrelevance such as headlines of "Rubbish" and still no grant was forthcoming.

Finally on Saturday, Oct 20 The Guardian carried a Normedia ad for a programme of Stravinsky which was entitled "The Gerald Larner Memorial Concert" Similar ads appeared in the Telegraph and the News



A full postbag followed from outraged dignitaries Mr Larner, who was of course alive and well and living in Altrincham, promptly wrote cutting off all connections with Normedia and stating that he would be grateful if

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accountability, status and "role occupants" ie people! It avoids the crucial question: 'what sort of health service does the population need?' and talks only about how most efficiently to manage the existing service, explicitly excluding the idea that the service should be run mainly by those who work in it and those who use it.

Sir Keith Joseph allowed a period of consultation before the new structures were definitely fixed. A Green Paper for discussion was published in 1971. He said that comments from over 600 organisations and individuals had been received. However, very few changes were made in the proposals, the result being that many professional groups and trade unions involved in the NHS are still thoroughly disatisfied. A White Paper came out in mid-73 and the NHS Reorganisation Act was passed by parliament in August 73.

MERGER

As of April 1, the three sections of the service will be merged together and administered by a single chain of appointed authority (see diagram). The number of people involved in management is to be reduced from about 10000 to about 2000.

THE DHSS under the secretary of state will determine national policy, allocate resources to the regions and effectively control all the bodies b eneath it. 14 Regional Health Authorities (RHA's) will be responsible for deploying resources in the regions: all members of the RHAs are appointed by the secretary of state. Below the RHAs will be about 90 Area Health Authorities (AHAs) which will be charged with carrying out national objectives, the policy of the local RHA and identifying un-met needs. The chairmen of the AHAs are appointed by the secretary of state, while most of their members are appointed by the RHA. The boundaries of the AHAs coincide with those of the new local government districts.

AHAs will have to set up family practioner committees which will advise the AHA and will deal directly with the HSS on such matters as conditions of service

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"grandiose" parts at the expense of more basic requirements. Which explains why the royal bog is now being used as a teaching room. It also explains why the joint management committee were so anxious to approve the toilet without the consent of the four local authorities who put up the cash in the first place.

Although the four authorities - Lancs, Cheshire, Salford and Manchester- are all represented on the joint committee, it is dominated by people from the college. Like Mr. Bickerdike, who has agreed for another lift to be installed, their enthusiasm for the prestige of the college has clearly gone to their tiny heads. It makes you wonder if they should be in control at all.

---

they would ' refrain from communicating with me in any way at any time in the future.' The principal of the Royal Northern College of Music, Mr Manduell, wrote (possibly from his converted royal bog) an extremely curt note, sent by recorded delivery, and Anthony Burton, assistant director of the NWAA said that 'if you behave as irresponsibly as at present, there is very little chance of the Establishment giving you any money

Since then the named critics of the three papers have operated a boycott on Normedia concerts (although Blun has sent his minion) and the NWAA has stuck to its finger wagging and stiff upper lippery. The address of the NWAA, for those who wish to send messages of support for Normedia, is 52 King Street, Manchester 2. Tel: 832 2937.

The situation is reminiscent of one way back in the early fifties, when five music college students were seeking a hall to give modern music concerts.. They were thwarted in their attempt by the then, as now, chairman of the Halle Concert Society Sir Geoffrey Haworth. He rang up all the possible venues and asked the managers to refuse the students a booking. The five students are better known today as Harrison Birtwhistle, composer; Samuel Ogden, pianist; Elgar Howarth; Alexander Goehr, professor of music at Leeds; and Peter Maxwell-Davies, composer.

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for GPs. In other words these committees will be the old executive councils under a new name, retaining independence by dealing directly with central government.

BOTTOM

At the bottom of this chain of appointed officials will be community health councils, one for each district. The councils will have the task of representing the interests of the public-the consumers. But their members are to be appointed mainly by that very body whose actions they are supposed to monitor - the Area Health Authority. It remains to be seen how the DHSS will brief council members as to their role in the NHS - whether as co-operators in a joint project with the AHA, or as critical observers of the AHAs policies. The councils will have the power to visit hospitals and to produce annual reports; their funds will come from the AHA.

The rigid adherence to the principle of appointment rather than election of administrators on all levels of this structure was justified by Sir Keith Joseph in these words: "the work to be done by members calls for general ability and personality. They will need to be interested in the NHS; to have an unbiased, questioning yet constructive approach, and good judgement; to set high standards and provide vigorous leadership.... Those needs can best be met if in the main, members are chosen for their personal qualities after appropriate consultations, not elected as representtatives reflecting the views of paricular interests."

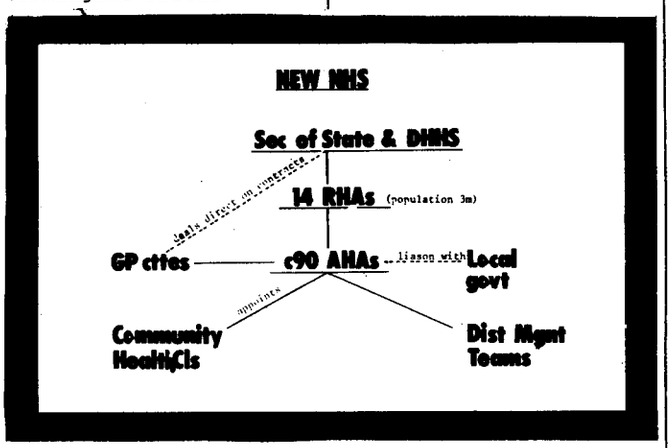
In the past few months most of the members of the Regional and Area Health Authorities have been named. There has been widespread accusations that the names chosen reflect class and political bias on the part of Sir Keith. Protests have come from the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Medical Practictioners' Union, the Confederation of Health Service Employees, the National Union of Public Employees, and Labour and Liberal politicians.

Unusually, reorganisation has created a high degree of unanimity among all sections of the NHS: for different reasons, scarcely any of them have a good word to say for it.

Let us see who the chairmen of the 14 RHAs in England are. They include three company directors, three solicitors, the director general of the Cement and Concrete Association (!), a retired insurance group manager, a retired chief engineer, three existing regional hospital board chairmen, and the secretary of the Birmingham Trades Council. Out of more than 280 appointments to the authorities announced in mid-August 1973 . four can be identified as workers and 18 as trade union officials - matched by 18 solicitors. No fewer than 83 can be described as various kinds of businessmen and property owners. The BMA has objected that only a very small minority of RHA members are doctors: a little over one eighth.

The North West Regional Health Authority consists of 17 members, chaired by Sidney C Hamburger CBE JP, ex-mayor of Salford, chairmen of the old NE Manchester Hospital Management Committee and a member of the Supplementary Benefits Commission. Among the ordinary members are to be found three doctors, a chief nursing officer, a dispensing chemist, 3 councillors, two aldermen, the Dean of the University Medical School and a solitary trade union official. In addition to the chairman there are two JPs. Four of the 17 are women.

Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham West, wrote to Sir Keith in November last year saying: "working class representation is only about one eighth of what it might be expected to be in terms of the composition of the general population." He also wrote: "there is consistently a bias of almost two to one in favour of Tory sympathisers against those who hold other political beliefs." He referred to the composition of the Oldham AHA, asking why "no less than 7 of the 15 members come from a single outlying district, Saddleworth, whilst none at all come from Lees, Crompton, Royton or Chadderton?"



OLDHAM

The chairman of Oldham AHA is in fact Vernon Stott JP, a director of five companies including James Stott & Co., Benham & Sons Ltd., and Crypto-Peerless Ltd. Among the other 10 AHAs in the North West Region, four chairmen come directly from Hospital Management Committees, and one, JH Holt of Trafford AHA, is a director of Royles Ltd. of Irlam, and Lancaster & Tonge Ltd.

MANCHESTER

The Manchester Area Health Authority is chaired by RB Prain, and it is noticeable that a majority of its 21 members currently live in affluent South Manchester - Wilmslow, Didsbury and Handforth

STOCKPORT

Stockport AHA is chaired by GH Sugden, MC JP, who used to chair the Stockport and Buxton Hospital Management Committee. The authority includes among its members an optician, a representative of the Trades Council, the mayor of Stockport, 2 doctors, a professor and 2 JPs. One of the doctors, Dr EJ Kilmartin, is in practice with the son of the optician member Mr A Harding. Another member is CGH Simon, a director of Simon Engineering Ltd and 5 other companies. Local authority members include two Tories, a Liberal and one Labour councillor.

The Labour MP for Wallsend, Ted Garrett, has protested that Sir Keith has packed the RHAs with "pro-Tory industrialists and retired military men." In August 73 he told the newspaper GP: "There is definitely political bias. Most of those appointed to the authority were either known Conservatives or had Conservative sympathies."

RESENTMENT

NUPE and COHSE, which together represent about 300,000 of the NHS's 800,000 workers, resent the lack of representation of their members in the various authorities. Only the higher reaches of the medical and nursing professions are to be found there, leaving ambulance drivers, hospital porters and other essential ancillary workers largely without a say in the running of the service.

A representative of COHSE said recently that his union accepts that the NHS was on need of reorganisation but that the authorities lacked any democratic structure and they were in danger of becoming purely bureaucratic. Similarly NUPE sees the new structure as "a continuation of the old self-perpetuating oligarchy- all sections of the staff in the health service should be represented."

NHS reorganisation will certainly succeed in centralising the service: but what of the real problems of health care in this country - continued private practice, the development of health centres, the establishment of an occupational health service, the merging of health and social services, improving care in long-stay hospitals, charges for health care, the deployment of resources where they are really needed, or the influence of the privately-owned drug companies?

All these problems are apparently subsidiary, in the eyes of the DHSS, to the need for a McKinseyite, super-streamlined bureaucracy.

STOWE TELLS ALL

IT'S not usual for a social worker to appear in court on a drugs charge. It's even less likely that, having pleaded guilty to the charge, he should have his case taken up by the Daily Express and the News of the World. That's what happened to David Stowe. The national outcry against his 1 year prison sentence, and the diabolical behaviour of the judge, led to the success of his appeal. He was charged with allowing his flat to be used for the smoking of cannibis and on the advice of his lawyer he pleaded guilty. After a series of manoeuvres by the police he received the now notorious sentence from Judge Sigmund. After his release from jail he began work on a project to help drug-addicts and ex-prisoners. Free Press talked to David Stowe three months after.

SUPPORT

FREEP: While your appeal was pending and your colleagues in Salford were coming out on strike, what sort of comments did you get from the public?

DS: We had about 70 letters and a couple of abusive phone calls, both anonymous. All the letters were in support. One from a doctor in Yorkshire wished me "good luck in your fight against the legal Goliath."

INFORMER

FREEP: You've now had some time to consider the prosecution. What's the most lasting impression you now have?

DS: Well, I'm 99% sure that whoever informed the police was in the department (Salford Social Services Dept). So far as the other social workers are concerned they have to wonder whether the person on the desk opposite is an informer. As far as the clients are concerned it's obviously more serious. Probation officers have to inform the police on the illegal acts of their clients, but social workers don't have that obligation. If the client thinks the social worker is a police informer there can't be any trust whatsoever. There's been no investigation inside the department about this.

FREEP: What was your position in the department before you were busted?

DS: We had a dispute last year for payment for out of hours work. There was an unofficial committee of three agitating in the North West. We called a strike and eventually won our demands. So after that I think I was more or less set up for the court case.

POLITICAL

FREEP: So the internal politics which exist in most local authority departments spilled over into police action in your case?

DS: Yes.

POLICE

FREEP: What about the police?

DS: I knew some of the police who raided the flat, although they pretended they didn't know me. It seemed to be obvious from the start that they were out to get me. They did everything they could to get the case heard in Salford, where the magistrates are tougher on drugs, even though only one of the three charges referred to Salford. I've been told that the prosecution barrister didn't want to proceed with the three charges that were originally brought at all, but the police insisted.

SHOCKED

FREEP: Did the trial proceedings shock you?

DS: Not really. There was a six month gap between the charge and the actual case and it all started to seem a bit unreal. When Sigmund (the judge) started going on about being horrified at the case I couldn't really believe he was talking about me. I'm told I laughed a couple of times during the summing up.

LUCKY

FREEP: What about the actual trial and prison sentence?

DS: I was lucky, that's the main thing. I had people to raise money for bail and to campaign before the appeal. The kids who are up in court every day havn't got that kind of backing. You can't get legal aid for bail pending appeal and I had to find £200. Most people just havn't got a chance with that kind of system.

GUILTY

FREEP: You pleaded guilty to the offence and got a year's jail sentence. In the light of that would you use the same tactics again?

DS: I wouldn't plead guilty again to anything A deal was done, on the instigation of the prosecution, to proceed on only one of the charges. I agreed to plead guilty because that was the only one I was guilty of.

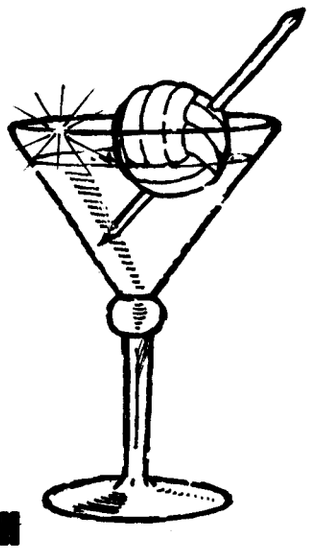
Nationwide publicity and a short spell in jail don't seem to have changed David Stowe much but his life was turned upsidedown. Soon after the charges were brought against him he left Salford social services dept to take up a job with ROMA - Rehabilitation of Metropolitan Addicts It was this connection with drug addicts which so horrified Judge Sigmund. That job didn't last, however, because Tower Hamlets council sat on a project to set up a ROMA house in the area.

David Stowe has now set up his own London-based project to help drug addicts and ex-prisoners. In a seedy and incredibly cold room he has set up a workshop. The aim is to produce candles, cards and jewellery and to provide paid employment for anyone who can't hold down a regular job.

"It's useless just giving some of these people a card and sending them along to an employer," he says, "because they're just not ready to keep a regular job." He sees the project as a "positive social work" providing sheltered employment for society's rejects.

He has financed the project single-handed and will have to work with one helper until they can get enough money to pay co-workers. You'll probably see their work in Manchester shops soon. It's good and i recommend you to buy it.

He also continues to work for ROMA as a fund raiser, using the national publicity he's had, to raise cash. So something at least has come out of the efforts to frame one of the best social workers Salford has had.



United they fall

TOMMY DOCHERTY has achieved nothing for a year. After 12 months with the dynamic, glamour Scot himself, the ailing United side are slightly worse off than they were this time last year. And with the new three-up, three-down system now in operation, the position is far worse for the Reds than it has been for a long time.

With three clubs going down this season, it is reasonable to suppose that United need a minimum of 33 points to avoid the drop. With 24 games played so far, United have only 16 points, and have only Norwich below them in the first division. This means that they probably need 17 points from the remaining games. A breakdown of these matches suggests that United have little chance of fulfilling this task. Their 8 home games are against Leeds, Burnley, Everton, Newcastle, (all in the top seven at the moment), Arsenal, Wolves, Man City and Spurs.

Against such quality opposition, United have little chance of improving on their current home record of a point a game, giving them just 8 points.

The ten away games look less tough: Coventry Stoke, Derby, Birmingham, Chelsea, Norwich, Southampton, Everton, Sheffield United, and Man City. But with United's appalling away record of 2 points from the 10 away games so far, anybody who suggests that they will get the necessary 11 points, might be called an inebriated optimist. There could, however, be plenty of those around Old Trafford at the moment.

For the maestro Best, now on the transfer list, has recently been granted a licence for his new club, Slack Alice, formerly known as the exotic Club del Sol. Since the future of the building is in doubt (the police have been making noises about redeveloping the block for a Bootle Street extension) , it seems that the ageing superstar has an excessive interest in the licence for its own sake. George is also these days, a regular customer in the 'Cellar Vie' , a fashionable boozer where trendy young winos can watch each other getting tired and emotional.

He may , of course, merely be following the lead of the new United boss. Docherty's proteges in the past have not been immune from the lovable liquid. Readers may remember the antics of one Peter Osgood, star of Docherty's former club, whose notorious crawl down the Kings Road ended up in Bow Street magistrates court. The Doc himself is not averse to the glamourous life, being an occasional client at the Helluva Vie and the MCP Playboy Club.

Kids forum police agin 'em

AN ATTEMPT by a group of kids to get some community involvement going in Wythenshawe has been thwarted by the police and the city magistrates. Under the guidance of detached youth worker Andy Davis, the kids decided to hold an all-night pop concert at the Wythenshawe Forum to raise money. The idea was approved by the education committee, the town hall committee which controls the Forum, and finally the city council. 144 councillors were sent a copy of the Government report on pop festivals which effectively killed the myth that festivals were centres for drug dealing and sex.

Through a solicitor, the kids applied for an extension to the Forum's music licence. But the police and magistrates had different ideas.

Despite the fact that 100 probation officers, social and youth workers and volunteers had agreed to staff the festival, the police disapproved. Before the hearing Chief Supt. Griffiths from Longsight police station admitted that he was old-fashioned about such things.

And at the court, the magistrates, all of whom were middle aged pillars of the city, dismissed the application after only a few minutes discussion. They gave no explanation for their decision.

"The kids are naturally very disappointed," says Andy Davis, "but they are used to that sort of treatment from the authorities. Many approaches made in the past about other schemes have been handled insensitively."

The kids are now thinking of reapplying for the extension or turning the whole thing into a show which would only involve getting an acting licence from the town hall committee. Whatever they do the magistrate-police conspiracy can be proud of their consistent attempts to keep vandalism going in Wythenshawe.

Beer matters

MORE than 100 people piled into the Printers' Arms in Cheadle this month to set up the South Manchester branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), which now has about 8,000 members up and down the country. The object of the campaign is to oppose the big breweries watering down and fizzing up beer. The pub was so packed that the meeting had to be held in the back garden. More details about the new group's activities can be got from David Hall on 0625 21933

Court napping

Prof Armitage

MEETINGS of Manchester University court - the sovereign body of the university - have until recently been very cosy affairs involving sherry and social chat and very little else. Now a group of staff and students have begun attempts to use the court as a forum for debate and a vehicle for change. The jackboot reaction from vice'chancellor Major Llewelyn Armitage indicates that the road will be long and stormy.

The dissidents tried to put forward 3 candidates in the election for lay members, those members of court elected to represent the community at large. The candidates were Colin Davis, secretary of the Manchester and Salford Trades Council, Bernard Panter, from the AUEW and George Joseph from the Black Unity and Freedom Party. The establishment put forward Messrs Paybody, Vanstone and Williams.

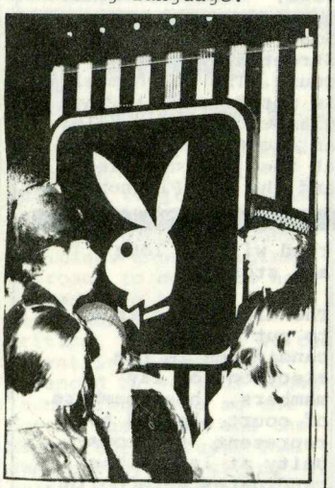
Not surprisingly there was a yawning gap between the candidates of both sides. While those from the dissidents could be shown to represent significant sections of the population of Manchester pathetically little could be said for their opponents. One, they were told, likes gardening "and can even tell you the latin names for his flowers;" another has "an intimate knowledge of young people" based on the fact that "there are often young people at his home;" another had an excellent war record. The establishment men were elected with crushing majorities.

Continued on back page

Playboy picket

MEMBERS of Women's Lib plus male supporters decided that the opening of the sexist Playboy Club in Manchester should not pass without protest. A peaceful picket was organised for the pre-opening peepshow for local civic dignitaries which included the Lord Mayor.

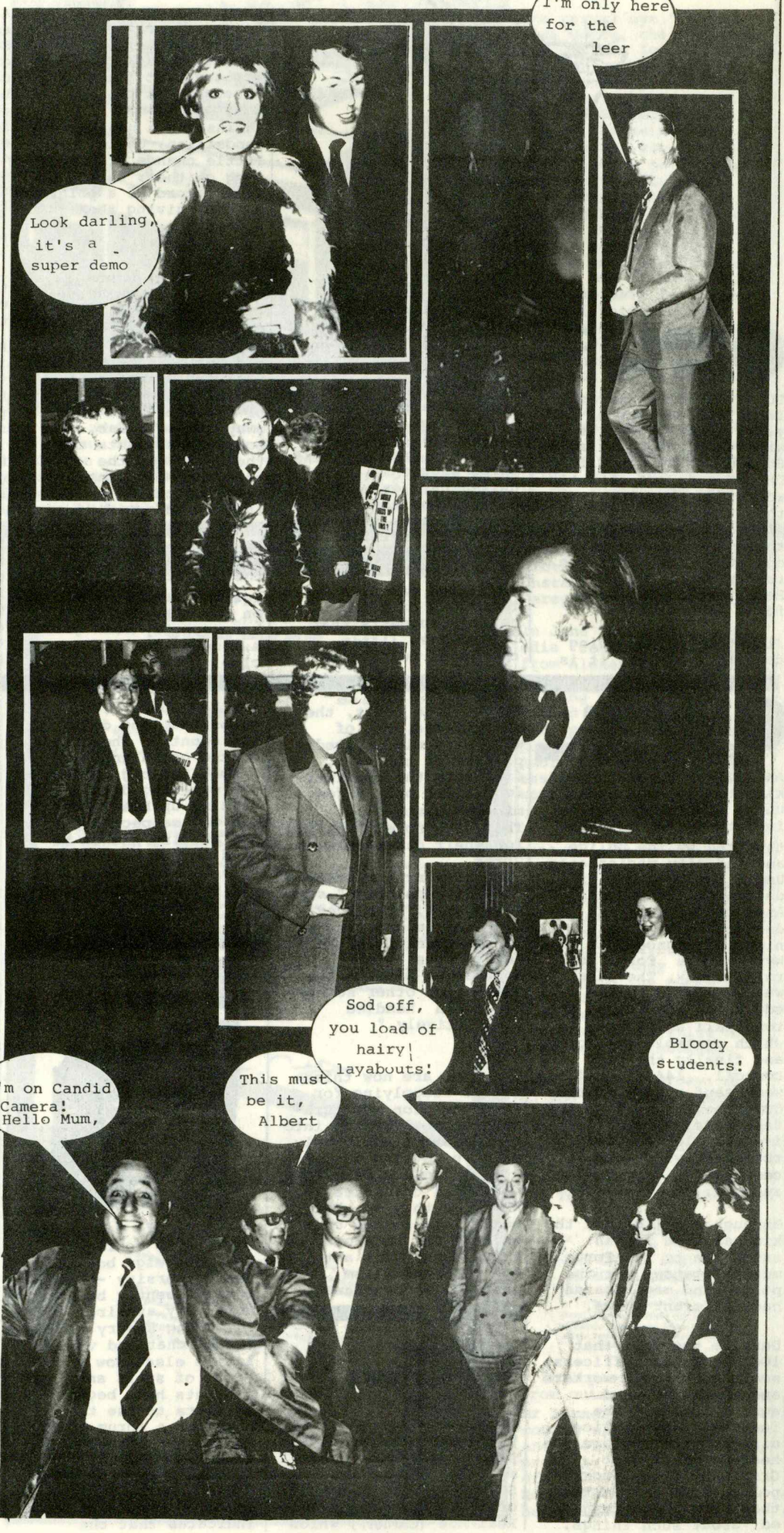
This picket - with about 60 people - was viciously broken up by the police who arrested five people. They have been remanded on bail to appear in court in March charged with offences ranging from obstruction to using insulting language.



Two days later , after a tactical meeting in the Poly across the road, another picket was held, this time with about 80 people. The police must have realised they had goofed on the first occasion as they allowed the picket to go ahead without any heavy-handed methods.

A strongly-worded letter from the president of the students' union to the chief constable, reminding him that people have a legal right to picket,must have filtered down to the bone heads on duty that night. The picket was extremely successful and Free Press photographer Sarah Royds got some good pictures of the sexist pigs who went in. But Bob Greaves was too fast for her.

Further demonstrations against the club in Canal Street are being planned.


Look darling, it's a super demo
I'm only here for the leer
I'm on Candid Camera! Hello Mum,
This must be it, Albert
Sod off, you load of hairy layabouts!
Bloody students!

Films

Sweaty seat-gripper

THE LAST AMERICAN HERO.

Junior Jackson learns to drive fast cars while distributing his father's illicitly-stilled whisky. Son of a poor, law-breaking mountain family, he takes up professional driving to help support his mother during one of his dad's jail sentences. Against all the odds - the commercially backed drivers, the tough and trendily-living pros - he rises to become a top stock car driver: local boy made good, petty crook turned hero.
The film is based on the career of Junior Jackson who really did become a racing hero. The acting's convincing and I found myself sweatily gripping my seat, urging Junior on in his final, successful race. Nothing to theorise about, no shocks, no gore, rapidly forgettable but good clean escapism.

Merely C competent

THE MACKINTOSH MAN AA

We might have expected better from the Newman-Houston team than this rather dated-looking thriller. Complex plot based on passe concepts of international

cold war spies and corruption in high governmental places gradually unravels through numerous twists and turns leading to slightly inevitable denouement. Paul Newman is a little mellow as the hard case in the middle, Rearden, who appears to be getting done by everybody. James Mason is better in capturing the glib political phrase-mongering of the bent minister. The location work in Ireland and the prison escape are the high points of what is otherwise a merely competent picture. Good enough to fill in if you've got a spare evening, but not a film to travel any distance for.

Usual incest castration and necrophilia in girls' school...

THE BEGUILED X

Clint Eastwood plays 'McB', a wounded Yankee soldier in the Civil War, who takes refuge in a small girls' school in the hostile south. The ensuing sexual tensions are vividly explored in orthodox Gothic images of the Deep South. The myth reaches its usual conclusion: total mysogeny. From a start with incest, racism and repression, the film builds to a climax of castration and finally necrophilia. And the familiar message that women's sexuality, if expressed, can only lead to destruction of the male. Striking photography and symbolism make up for unexceptional acting, although Geraldine Page as the frustrated matron of the seminary makes the most of her difficult role as the mother/castrator figure which haunts the male ego. Good to watch, but don't let it fool you.

Eye-soother

BROTHER SUN AND SISTER MOON

Zeffirelli's film about St Francis of Assisi is described as "celebrating the timeless joy of original innocence." Visually, it soothes the eyes, and a stream of gentle sentiments washes delicately over this reviewer's ill-treated faculties. The poor win out over the rich; the peace-loving over the warlike; the ascetic over the materialistic; everything nice reigns over everything nasty. What a pity that the world isn't really like that. And it wasn't in the 13th century either. But it's a very beautiful movie.

Good Gould

THE LONG GOODBYE X

Elliot Gould plays revamped Humph Bogart, playing Chandler hero Philip Marlowe, who moves easily into the 70's. Gould is excellent as off-beat gumshoe who chainsmokes his way thru dodgy encounters with cops, villains, extortionists etc, as well as trying to feed his cat. Best bit of an occasionally turgid plot is Gould's superb scene with dumb tail Frankie. Many nice touches, but spoilt by totally unecessary string of bare tit in the apartment next to the hero's, which has nothing whatever to do with the story. Otherwise, plenty of humour and vigour.

Gorilla pants

MAGNUM FORCE

Slickly told tale of Dirty Harry Eastwood's continuing fight against the pimps, racketeers, hijackers, murderers and general perverts who haunt the cinematic imagination. The complicated plot has enough loose ends to tie itself totally in knots with para-fascist cops acting as a sop to the liberals who thought that Harry was a fascist himself.

But still the same fascinated sordid fetishism about the guns and the ultra-violence of it all. Crude cliched dialogue fails to mar scenes of high suspense, although some of these borrow heavily on previous super cop thrillers. Hand out says the film will scare the pants of a gorilla, so if you're a gorilla, don't wear pants to it.

Bawdy classic

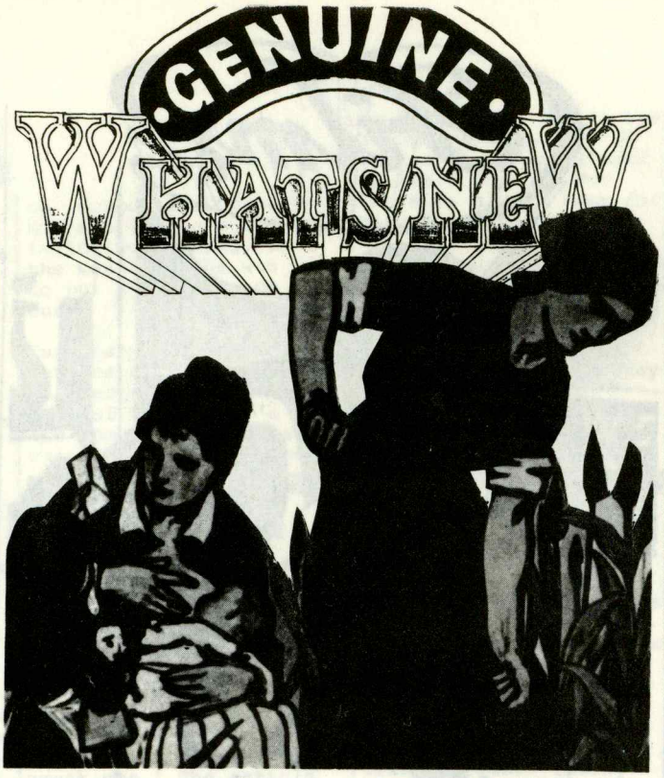
CANTERBURY TALES X

Piers Paulo Pasolini's interpretation of Chaucer's classic school text. A Marxist of sorts, Pasolini attempts to get behind the popular culture of the time unclouded by contemporary prejudices and mores. The result is a vigourously bawdy movie. No punches are pulled, not a fart or a shit missed out. Miller's tale, poker et al, is outstanding, and the end of the film is a very powerful picture of the end of the evil monks. Excellent.

Chiller thriller

DONT LOOK NOW X

Despite appalling Daphne du Maurier plot, this is one of the best suspense movies around. Donald Sutherland gives an excellent performance as the husband of stylish Julie Christie. The pair move to Venice to escape the memory of a little daughter who drowned in mysterious circumstances. Once there, the couple move through eerie waterways and rat-infested alleys to a frightening conclusion. Skilled direction and well-balanced music make this a real chiller.



Uruguayan guerillas

THE TUPAMAROS by Alain Labrousse Pelican Latin American Library 40p.

The urban guerilla movement in Uruguay is probably one of the most successful of its kind operating today. Like most liberation armies it has the support of large sections of the highly industrialised Uruguayan working class which has had to face systematic repression from the US-backed government for the past half dozen years. The Tupamaros ' succes has largely been due to this and a tightly organised network of cells that even Mr Labrousse has been unable to penetrate. His account of their actions is sketchy and he readily admits that their precise origins are still clouded in mystery. Mr Labrousse does, however, attempt to place the Tupamaros in the context of the Latin American revolution. He points out that most of their early kidnappings were linked with precise trade union demands; that they emphasised the need for a continental strategy against American imperialism; and that their priority emphasis on armed struggle is tied to the need for the raising of political consciousness among the working class.

A final chapter by Richard Gott, author of Rural Guerillas in Latin America, brings the events in Uruguay up to date. Mass arrests of Tupamaros in Montevideo have led the movement to reexamine its strategy and to turn to the countryside and the sugar plantation workers. Given the urban character of Uruguay, this is undoubtedly a retreat but, unlike is some other Latin American countries, the movement is far from finished.

Purge

THE WAY WE WERE - by Arthur Laurents New English Library 40p.

A love story with a rather interesting political scenario. Starting with college days in the American YCL during the war its main setting is Hollywood in the days of the McCarthyite purges. The scene for a new film featuring Barbara Streisland and Robert Redford.

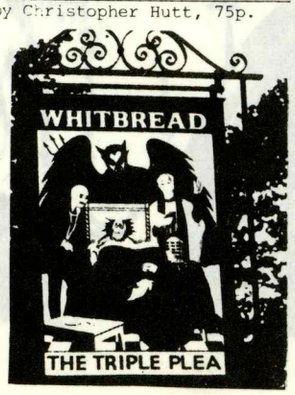
Sore and tender

WOMAN's CONSCIOUSNESS, MAN'S WORLD by Sheila Rowbotham Penguin 35p.

This is the first of Shiela Rowbotham's books to appear in a cheap paperback and as such is important for bringing to public attention numerous excerpts from pamphlets not generally available to the public. It cannot, however, be called a 'popular' book, being in the main a detailed and lucid description of the ways in which advanced capitalism invades and distorts our personal lives and social relations. Given that it is a book written for those already interested in the women's movement, it has much to recommend it. There is, for example, a sympathetic understanding of the position men find themselves in when faced by our demands, coupled with a determination not to be side-tracked: "We must go our own way but remember we are going to have to take them with us. They learn slowly. They are like creatures who have just crawled out of their shells after millennia of protection. They are sore and tender and afraid." There is also an engagingly honest and detailed account of her own maturation process from rebellious 17 year old, through university and subsequent political affiliations, and of her attempts to relate her own experience to her understanding of Marxism. I like too her subtle realisation of herself as a 'man-woman.' She is admitting, like Germaine Greer has done, to being 'an escapee from her own sex.' But the chapter which will probably have the most meaning for most women is the one that explores, with the help of various housewives' accounts, the mind-emptying nature of housework.

Exile in Watneyland

THE DEATH OF THE ENGLISH PUB by Christopher Hutt, 75p.

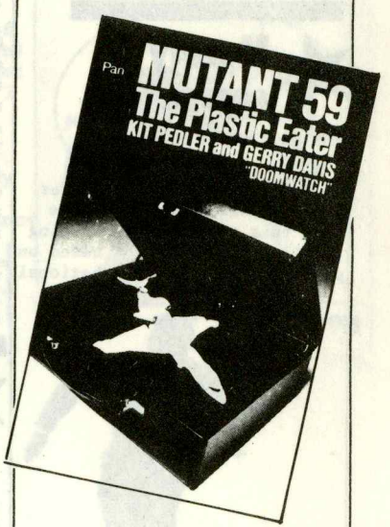


This sign, taken from the book, ironically sums it up. Chris Hutt takes the profit-mad brewers to task on three main points in a well-written case.
He deplores their lack of social responsibility during their asset-stripping sprees. He criticises their wholesale dismissal of tenants along with their destruction of the traditional format of pubs - particularly the disappearance of the vault. And he mourns the decline of the quality, strength and availability of traditional beer.
As a Marple man weaned on Robinson's and Boddington's- now living in exile in dreaded Watneyland - who can blame him?

Bugs run amuck

MUTANT 59 - THE PLASTIC EATER by Kit Pedler and Gerry Davis. Pan 40p.

The self-explanatory title plus the Doomwatch background of the authors doesn't leave much doubt as to the content of this very readable book. Bacteria running amok in the sewers threatening life and London may not be a totally original theme but set in the context of superbly precise technical and social detail it assumes a new and convincing quality. Pedler is well on the way to establishing a paradigm for entertaining no-nonsense fiction on the disasterous possibilities which threaten to disrupt our finely-balanced eco-system. Tinged, perhaps unavoidably, with a slightly BBCish atmosphere, it is nevertheless a creditable acheivement.



Upper class perverts

I, NORMA LEVY Blond & B riggs 50p

Since New English Library found Norma Levy too hot to handle it is only thanks to the tireless efforts of the trendy Blond and Briggs that she now lies exposed to the British public. In spite of the presence of a literary equivilent to the G-string, there is enough revealed to amply confirm general opinion as to the widespread enjoyment of brutality and perversion amongst the British upper class. However, if is names you are after, forget it. You have to be a foreigner, a fugitive or a corpse to get in this one.

Amazing pump

THE GODS THEMSELVES by Isaac Asimov Panther 40p.

Asimov moves into welcome new territory in his new award-winning novel. Although written in his normal engaging manner, its contents clearly reflect some of the recent re-thinking about the social role of science and technology. The world energy crisis appears to be solved by the discovery of the apparently inexhaustible and pollution-free electron pump. In the midst of the global acclaim for the invention a handful of scientists begin to have doubts. They become convinced that a side-effect of the technology could spell the doom of mankind. Their concern invokes the wrath of the scientific hierarchy and their reward is ostracism. Meanwhile in a parallel universe coupled to ours by the pump, a strange life form experiences similar doubts and conflicts which are described with care and sensitivity by the author. A stimulating and absorbing novel which, in spite of Asimov's new-found concerns, is finally resolved in a splendid Asimovian style with a traditional although extremely elegant technical 'fix.'

So what

THE EXPLOITS OF THE INCOMPARABLE MULLA NASRUDIN by Idries Shah Picador 40p.

A collection of amusing tales featuring the Mulla. Used as a teaching aid by the Sufi school of philosophy, we are told.

And...

ALSO RECEIVED: THE DAY STAR by Mark S Creston DAW Books. OUT OF THEIR MINDS by Clifford B Simak Sidgwick & Jackson 40p.

Orgasmic

We were late in getting some books for this issue but we hope to include them in the next. Our extremely knowledgeable sex correspondent has also promised an in-depth analysis of Seymour Fisher's 'Understanding the Female Orgasm.'

Edgey Exley

THE POLICE havn't yet finished with David Stowe. (See page 10) Last Friday night he and a group of friends were in the Westward Ho restaurant in Salford when Sergeant Exley of the Salford drug squad came over and proceeded to act in a tired and over-emotional way. He accosted Stowe and refused to go away. Persisting in his erratic behaviour, he said: "You can print what you like in those mags" (Eds: we will) Stowe phoned the police complaining of harrassment. (Exley already has seven other complaints against him) The inspector was not available for ½ hour so he and his mates left, fearing for their safety. After he had called the police, Exley had said to the restaurant in general: "He sells cannabis." The police have since apologised.

Knight of long knives

PLANS are afoot in Stockport to reorganise the administrative services in 3 of the 6 offices in the town. The scheme means that the same admin staff would be dealing with housing, environment, health, community development and general info. Social workers are 100% against the scheme, which, they say, means a direct threat to confidentiality, as social services and housing records would be kept in the same office. It makes the spying on tenants we reported in Freep 21 all the easier. It also means that the area Ombudsman becomes a manager and a beaurocrat. It also theatens social workers with more paperwork, reducing still further the mere 30% of time they now spend with 'clients.' The scheme is being pushed by the board of directors and the Tory caucus on the council led by Alderman Walter Knight, a florist. The complaints of the social workers have been ignored. They now have formed an action committee to fight the plan which they say simply 'serves the interests of particular groups in controlling the public more effectively.'

Manchester Polytechnic Oh yeah!

19 Jan Sat String Driven Thing
2 Feb Sat Hookfoot
9 Feb Sat Hudson Ford
14 Feb Th St Valentine's Event
16 Feb Sat Vinegar Joe

Cavendish House AllSaints 8-2am

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TRANSPORT

GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP. Campaigning for a reexamination of the motorways plans for the city and proposals for Longsight district centre. 102 Millgate Lane Manchester M20

The campaign has been broken down into nine issues, each with a co-ordinator.
1. City centre: Andrew Fender, 14 Brixton Ave., M20.
2. Inner ring road; Longsight: Ian Ford, Students Union, Oxford Rd., M13.
3 Inner ring road; Lower Broughton: Peter Yates, Dept of Town & Country Planning, Bridgeford St., M13.
4. Princess Parkway/West Didsbury, Moss Side: Rita Oughton, 57 Homewood Road, M22.
5. M602 Eccles to Cross Lane: H. Concannon, Dept of Sociology Univ of Salford, S5.
6. M63 and A6(M) Stockport: Jack Gill, 6 Brixham Ave., Cheadle Hulme.
7. D23 ring road, Fallowfield and Levenshulme: David Groome, Dept of Town & Country Planning , see 3 above.
8. Picc-Vic and future rail plans: D.F. Exley, 49 Heathfield Rd., Bury.
9. Bus priority, pedestrians, cyclists: Peter Wicks, Environmental Action, Students Union UMIST, Sackville Str., M1.

ADS & INFO

CLAIMANTS

MANCHESTER CLAIMANTS UNION Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays. Heatherbank House, 400 Moss Lane East 226 1677

WOMEN

WOMEN's LIBERATION CENTRE Free pregnancy testing Sat 10-12pm . Advice on abortion, contraception, SS, nurseries, battered wives etc. 218 Upper Brook Street, Mchr 13. 273 2287

GAY

GAY LIBERATION meets Wednesdays Lower Turks Head, S hude Hill. 8pm.

LEGAL ADVICE

NELLO JAMES CENTRE. Free legal advice Tuesdays and Thursdays 7pm. Free tuition in English and maths any night. Plans to provide a 10-place pre-school day nursery. 136 Withington Road, Mchr 16. 226 4184

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT. community workshop, lorries to supply furniture to those in need, car pool, community press Help needed. 29 Poland Street, Ancoats. 205 1473.

INROADS

INROADS. a small independent community group working out of Salford in community centre, youth projects, street theatre 56 Sussex Street, Lower Broughton, Salford 7. 834 4406.

HOMELESS

HOMELESS IN MANCHESTER. Contact via 224 3084.

MEETINGS

DARCUS HOWE, ex-Mangrove 9 defendent and now editor of Race Today, speaking on racism and the class struggle at the Catholic Chaplaincy, Oxford R oad, Manchester. 8.0pm Jan 22.2, All comrades welcome.

NATIONAL COUNCIL for Civil Liberties is organising opposition to the Cinematograph and Indecent Displays Bill. Manchester meeting will be held at Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Mchr. Speakers: Philip Whithead MP Derby North; Cllr Sholto Moxley, chairman of Manchester branch for the Defence of Literature and of the Arts Society; and NCCL Manchester chairman Jeff Wilner. Jan 28. 7.30pm.

CIS have just brought out their Anti-Report No 7 on Insurance companies and pension funds, price 30p. We shall carry a review in the next issue.

SECOND HAND FLUTE WANTED contact Free Press Box 5

SPREAD Free Press around and make 2p a copy. Bulk orders from 45 Aspinall Street, Mchr 14.

Continued from page 11

It looked at one point that there might be some worthwhile people brought on to the court under section 14 of the university charter which allows for outsiders to be co-opted. But when it was realised that the staff and students proposed several trade unionists, the court decided to dispense with democracy altogether. Section 14 was declared to be unclear and it was referred back to a sub-committee for clarification.

The final confrontation came over the question of the university's massive investments in firms with interests in South Africa. A motion was put forward by the president of the students' union calling for these investments to be withdrawn. As the establishment were quietly preparing to sit tight Alderman Gerald Joplin of Salford rose and delivered a rabidly pro-Apartheid speech in which hysteria was only matched by inaccuracy. The so-called liberals, including Sir Neville Butterworth of English Calico with 2 subsidiaries in South Africa, cringed visibly. As readers would expect, the motion was eventually talked out.

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